

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

101 YEARS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA (ROC)

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks 101 years of the Republic of China, ROC, that now exists on Taiwan.

Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated for a second and last time on Sunday, May 20. Taiwan limits its presidents to two terms, as do we. But in his already more than four years since first taking office, President Ma has fundamentally altered the dynamic of Taiwan's economic relations with mainland China and by extension, relations with the United States and the rest of the world.

Fresh off his first inauguration in 2008, President Ma launched the first regular non-stop flights across the Taiwan Strait since China's Civil War ended in 1949. These flights, now as many as 558 a week, have made life much easier for Taiwanese working and doing business on the mainland. It's in turn also made life much easier for Americans crossing the Taiwan Strait—be it for work or for pleasure.

But most significantly, in 2010, Taiwan entered into its Economic and Cooperation Framework Agreement, ECFA, with mainland China that eliminated tariffs on 16 percent of Taiwan exports to the mainland. Now that President Ma was reelected with a fresh mandate this past January, more tariff eliminations under ECFA will follow. There will also be further service sector openings in both directions. Most importantly, ECFA, as does President Ma's other cross-Strait trade and investment relaxations, reintegrates Taiwan into Asia's economic supply chain, allowing Taiwan producers to supply global customers in mainland China directly.

The spending power of the millions of mainland Chinese tourists who have visited Taiwan since 2008 has also boosted the island's economy, as well as exposed those same tourists to Taiwan's pluralistic, democratic system. Having now experienced Taiwan's elections firsthand, some mainlanders will demand accountability of their leaders back home as Taiwanese do theirs. Taiwan's elections can serve as an example and milestone for ethnic Chinese worldwide that these universal political freedoms are not somehow incongruous with culture as some mainland autocrats have alleged.

I thus urge my colleagues, on this 101st anniversary of the ROC, to congratulate Taiwan on this century-plus milestone and to applaud its recent trade, investment, and travel openings to neighboring mainland China. It suits Taiwan's economic interests as well as our own.

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this poem in honor of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, on September 19, 2012.

This is a poem written by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE DAW OF FREEDOM

The. . .
The Daw of Freedom. . .
On this day. . .
As from across the oceans,
your courage so reaches out to all of us in so many ways!
As a Freedom Fighter,
whose fine heart so all ignites us in so many ways!
All in your struggle for democracy and human rights this,
all in what your peaceful fight has so conveyed!
As over the years,
as we have all so watched you all so here,
and for you Daw Suu have all so prayed!
As all in such awe,
at what we so saw. . .
all in what your courage against such oppression so had to say!
Just like all of those great Freedom Fighters
who have so come before,
names like Gandhi and King who through non violence had so implored!
Happiness, Democracy and Freedom for all the more!
As now your gifts this,
now stands etched in Woman and Mankind forevermore!
and with that presentation of your Noble Peace Prize,
you but brought such tears to our eyes!
For Burma has but a bright future so ahead,
as long as she so listens to what Champions of Freedom,
like you Daw Suu have so said!
So on this day,
we kneel and pray. . . all in respect for that great battle you so wage!
As upon you this Gold Medal we now so place. . .
As your fine life has but brought such light to even the darkest of all days. . .
As now we so march with you all in our hearts and souls,
all in this your great battle and crusade that we behold!
Of your life and your times,
and your great quest for freedom and her rhymes,
of this all of our children must be told!

HONORING THE LIFE OF
SERGEANT BRADLEY W. ATWELL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Mr. DONNOLLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember and honor the life and dedication to service of Sergeant Bradley W. Atwell, a native of Kokomo, Indiana, and a proud member of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). Sergeant Atwell died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on September 15th, 2012, in Kabul, Afghanistan, as a result of a sustained insurgent attack on Coalition Forces at Camp Bastion. This attack also claimed the life of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher K. Raible of Huntington, Pennsylvania.

Bradley graduated from Taylor High School in 2003 where he played on the baseball team. Described as "a piece of American apple pie," he had an undeniable desire to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on October 17, 2005. A third generation Marine, Bradley deployed with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 in February 2012 and served as an aeronautic electrical systems technician. According to Bradley's mother, he was proud to wear his uniform.

Bradley's awards include the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (second award), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, NATO Service Medal—International Security Assistance Force and the Purple Heart.

Bradley will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow soldiers as a dedicated, courageous, and talented young man and the consummate Marine. He is survived by his wife of only 10 months, Danielle Cross, mother, Cheryl Atwell and her fiancé Jimmy Coates, father, Victor Atwell and his wife Kimberlee, grandmother, Shirley Oody, brother, Dustin, sister, Erin and other loving extended family. Just days prior to his last deployment, Bradley was able to hold his newborn niece Aubrey who, according to family members, strongly resembles him.

It is my solemn duty and humble privilege to honor the life, service and memory of Sergeant Bradley W. Atwell. He is a testament to the great honor possessed and sacrifices made by our brave men and women in the Armed Forces. We mourn his passing and offer solemn gratitude for his service and sacrifice.

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